

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 : (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an object, comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a support carrier of a shape-retaining material;
- b) placing the carrier on a conveyor for conveying the carrier past a sealing workstation;
- c) positioning a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier;
- d) positioning an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film;
- e) sealing overlapping portions of the films together at the sealing workstation to form a sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier; and
- f) removing the sealed film assembly from the carrier after sealing.

Claim 2 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; wherein each positioning step is performed by feeding the lower and upper films from respective film rolls through the sealing station.

Claim 3 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the steps of coating the lower and upper films with fusible coatings; and wherein the positioning steps are performed by feeding the lower and upper films with the fusible coatings facing each other.

Claim 4 : (Canceled)

Claim 5 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the step of adhering the lower film to the carrier simultaneously with performing the sealing step to maintain a correct positional relationship between the sealed film assembly and the carrier during manufacture.

Claim 6 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the step of laminating the lower film to the carrier prior to performing the sealing step.

Claim 7 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the step of cutting the films while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 8 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the cutting step is performed simultaneously with the sealing step.

Claim 9 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the cutting step is performed subsequently to the sealing step.

Claim 10 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the overlapping portions are sealed boundary areas extending at least partly along a periphery of the object to be manufactured, and wherein the cutting step is performed at least partly within the boundary areas.

Claim 11 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the carrier has peripheral edges, and wherein the boundary areas are cut along a cutting line located at a spacing from the peripheral edges; and the step of removing the lower and upper films from the spacing.

Claim 12 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the carrier has peripheral edges, and wherein the boundary areas are cut along a cutting line located at a spacing from the peripheral edges; and the step of leaving the lower and upper films in the spacing.

Claim 13 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2; and the step of cutting the carrier subsequently to the sealing step to form a sheet on which the sealed film assembly is supported.

Claim 14 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the step of printing on the sealed film assembly in registration with the carrier.

Claim 15 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1; and the step of inserting an inflation valve in the sealed film assembly.

Claim 16 : (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the lower and upper films overlap and contact each other over a surface area; and the step of adhering the lower and upper films together over the entire surface area of contact.

Claim 17 : (Previously Presented) A n a r r a n g e m e n t f o r manufacturing an object, comprising:

- a) means for supplying a support carrier of a shape-retaining material;
- b) a conveyor for conveying the carrier past a sealing workstation;
- c) means for positioning a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier;
- d) means for positioning an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier, on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film;

e) means for sealing overlapping portions of the films together at the sealing workstation to form a sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier; and

f) means for removing the sealed film assembly from the carrier.

Claim 18 : (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for adhering the lower film to the carrier simultaneously with operation of the sealing means to maintain a correct positional relationship between the sealed film assembly and the carrier during manufacture.

Claim 19 : (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for cutting the films while the films are positioned on the carrier.

Claim 20 : (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 17; and means for printing on the sealed film assembly in registration with the carrier.

Claim 21 : (Currently Amended) A sealed film arrangement, comprising:

a) a support carrier sheet of a shape-retaining sheet material;

b) a lower film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier sheet, detachably mounted on and in overlapping relationship with the carrier sheet which supports the lower film against flexing;

c) an upper film of a flexible material more flexible than the material of the carrier sheet, mounted on and in overlapping relationship with the lower film; and

d) overlapping portions of the films being sealed together to form a sealed film assembly while the films are positioned on the carrier sheet, the sealed film assembly being removable from supported by the carrier sheet against flexing when the films are sealed together, and

the sealed film assembly being removably mounted from the carrier sheet by detachment of the lower film from the carrier sheet.

Claim 22 : (Previously Presented) An inflatable film assembly, comprising:

- a) a pair of overlapping, flexible films having portions sealed together to bound an interior;
- b) an inlet on the films for admitting gas into the interior; and
- c) an elongated valve extending from the inlet into the interior, the valve having a remote portion spaced away from the inlet and adhered to one of the films.

Claim 23 : (Previously Presented) The film assembly of claim 22, and an elongated support extending along the valve, for supporting the films in an erect state on the support.